



Topsnam, Vt. Dec. 10. 1861

Dear Mr. Garrison.

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I hardly know for what I write you. I merely follow an impulse. Recently I have been thinking much about you, especially since I read the will of our late friend Francis Jackson. And will you pardon me if I seem too familiar when I say that ever since my fuller acquaintance with you at West Randolph, then at my own house, I have had a desire for fellowship. More and more have I been ^{drawn} towards him whose self sacrificing philanthropy I have ever admired. For long years - long before I saw Wm. Lloyd Garrison in the flesh - his words were to me as "apples of gold set in pictures of silver": And tho. I would not dare to set that name side by side with that of Jesus, yet

the former, as well as the latter, has
long been to me a watchword. Garrisonian
Abolitionism has been a part of
my religion, and is yet insepar-
able from it. They are identical.

You do not wonder, therefore, that
my heart was made right glad
when I read that that noble
man - Francis Jackson - had
made you a noble request. After
a life of devotion to the cause of
the slave, how becoming - how ap-
propriate to close that life in
so honorably rewarding the slave's
best friend! I honor his name.
Long will it be remembered affec-
tionately and gratefully by the
true friends of truth & rightous-
ness.

This (no doubt, unexpected)
token of appreciation of your labors
in the good cause, I hope will not
only be an incentive to untiring

effort in the same cause so long as
one slave remains in his chains, but
will be regarded as a proof of God's
goodness to you, in not allowing the
laborer to go unrewarded, even in the
regard to earthly things. But I
cannot doubt that you have had
a reward a thousand times greater,
in the persuasion that, whatever
men may have said, you had the
approbation not only of a good Conscience,
but of the Lord of the Conscience.

Let me, dear friend, quote your
own words in a letter to me some time
ago. I use them as mine to you.

"But what should we be good for, if
we had only sunshine in our pathway,
and the applause of the multitude
ringing in our ears? 'No cross, no
Crown', said good William Penn. 'We
want you when all men ^{shall} speak well of you',
said a far greater than Penn. Let us
endeavour to be true witnesses for God,

and find our consolation and reward
in well-doing. Nor shall we testify
in vain."

I need not say anything
to you about the present state of
affairs in our land. Truly "the Lord
hath done great things for us; whereof we
are glad." Such marvellous changes
are rapidly taking place, I am becoming
more & more hopeful. God is leading
men beyond their own purposes.
He rides above the storm. He makes
the wrath of man to praise him.

I pray God you may live to see the
desire of your heart - the freedom of
these millions of God's oppressed poor; &
that, in a ripe old age, enjoying peace &
comfort, you may look back upon
life rejoicing that God called you
to work in so good a cause, & allowed
your eyes to see this desire.

Of course you will see that these
lines are private. Be of good cheer!
All our hearts say - God bless you.

Ever truly your friend - N. R. Johnston.